



## Environmental Achievement for Dental Offices

### *What is PACE?*

The **PACE Program** provides free, professional consultations and recognition for environmental achievement. Businesses and municipalities in Boulder County can join. PACE offers:

- Consultations to identify potential regulatory problems, as well as cost savings through waste reduction, and water/energy-efficiency measures.
- Public recognition for your environmental efforts.

### *Why Participate?*

*Compliance* – Our free, non-regulatory consultations assist with environmental regulations.

*Cost Savings* – Less waste means lower disposal and operating costs. Efficient use of water, energy, and materials saves money.

*Public Image* – Environmental practices affect your image with customers, the community, and regulatory agencies.

### *Public Recognition*

PACE publicly recognizes certified businesses through **free advertising**. This includes Internet listings and advertising in the newspaper, magazines, radio, and water bill inserts.

Certified offices receive a PACE window decal and framed certificate. PACE encourages the public to support dental offices that have environmentally sound operating practices.

### *What does it take to become PACE-certified?*

Our main focus is to assist businesses with their practices to reduce the environmental impacts of their business on the community. Even if you do not become certified, you can still benefit from our program!

PACE certification assures your compliance with state laws. For certification, offices must complete all of the criteria listed:

#### Mercury

- Amalgam waste from placement or removal from chairside and vacuum filter are collected, stored in an airtight container, and recycled or sequestered through a licensed facility.

#### Silver

- If you have a conventional x-ray system, used fixer is placed in a tightly sealed and labeled container and is recycled.

#### Lead

- Lead foil is recycled and aprons are recycled or sent to a dental charity.

#### Water/Energy Conservation

- Water and energy conservation or efficiency measure.

#### Recycling

- Cardboard, mixed paper, and co-mingled containers are recycled.
- Recycled paper products are used whenever possible. Office paper should have a minimum of 30% post-consumer waste.

#### Environmentally Preferable Cleaners

- Non-chlorinated, neutral products are used for suction lines.

#### Training

- PACE “*Environmental Achievement for Dental Offices*” sheet has been reviewed and initialed by all office staff.
- Be a reference to other dental offices regarding green practices.

#### Compliance

- Be in compliance with all applicable regulations.

## Compliance with State Hazardous Waste Laws

Dental offices generate relatively small quantities of hazardous wastes, but office staff often disposes of these wastes improperly. Under Colorado state law, hazardous wastes **MUST** either be treated on-site or collected and sent to a facility that can deal with these wastes. Through participation in PACE, your office can ensure you are in regulatory compliance regarding your hazardous waste.

## Beyond Compliance!

Minimize or eliminate hazardous wastes at your office:

- Digital X-ray system (eliminates fixer, developer, & lead waste)
- Lead-free aprons (eliminates lead use and need for disposal)
- Amalgam separator (minimizes mercury release to environment)
- "Mercury-free" filling placements (eliminates mercury use)

Conserve water, energy, and materials and save money:

- Recycle hard-to-recycle materials (saves valuable resources)
- Dry-vacuum system (water savings of up to 1200 gallons/day)
- Go paperless with a digital filling system (save paper & storage space)

## Energy-Efficient Lighting



Make the easy switch and save money!  
CFL's are smaller versions of standard fluorescent lamps. They have brightness and color similar to incandescent bulbs but are NOT DIMMABLE.

### Advantages of CFL's vs. Incandescent

- Last 10 times longer (cost savings!)
- Generates 70% less heat (cost savings!)
- Uses less than 1/4 of the energy (cost savings!)
- Although the initial cost is higher, the energy cost of a CFL will be 6 to 10 times less for each bulb you replace



### CFL Flood Lamps vs. Incandescent Floods

- Lasts 4 times longer (cost savings!)
- Generates 70% less heat (cost savings!)
- Uses less than 1/4 of the energy (cost savings!)
- Use on track, flood light, and recessed ceiling applications



## Staff Initials/Date

Please sign and date after reading this resource sheet.

Name/Date

Name/Date

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

## PACE Contacts

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## Helpful Resources



See the PACE website for a list of helpful resource sheets  
[www.pacepartners.com](http://www.pacepartners.com)



American Dental Association  
[www.ada.org/](http://www.ada.org/)



Environmentally Responsible  
Dentistry San Francisco  
[www.sfenvironment.com/aboutus/toxics/dentistry/green\\_offices.htm](http://www.sfenvironment.com/aboutus/toxics/dentistry/green_offices.htm)



Naval Dental Research  
Institute  
[www.dentalmercury.com/](http://www.dentalmercury.com/)



The International Academy of  
Oral Medicine & Toxicology  
[www.iaomt.org/](http://www.iaomt.org/)